

## **‘What Happens in Glastonbury’**

### **Tv/film adaptation important info:**

- Pilot episode
- Romantic drama/comedy with humorous dialogue
- Pilot written as a TV series/ could also be a film
- Aimed at older teens - 35 years
- ‘Feeling’ vitally important
- Humour vitally important

Reading the novel is really important to understanding my vision for the screenplay and the story as a whole, despite touching on some tough subjects, affairs, domestic abuse, drugs and alcohol and an overdose the humour is integral to the overall feel of the story, themes may need to be toned down or cut/changed to work with the humour on screen but the most important aspect to me is retaining Olly as she is written, her as a person and her humour is the basis for the entire story and is the thing that’s most important to me. Getting that across in the synopsis of the novel is difficult to convey and I really recommend reading at least some of the novel.

I have formatted it as a tv series, dividing a few chapters of the novel into each episode and bulking it out with a fictional secondary storyline, not explored much in the novel, however the novel as a whole could be a film instead of a series.

Feeling, connection and the intensity of the characters emotions is vitally important, an audience needs to feel the emotions of the characters and feel the intense connection between them, ‘feeling something’ when watching a movie or tv series is really important to me, all my favourite movies and shows have done this in amazing ways and I would want the same for this.

### **Novel tagline**

Glastonbury; Good music, good friends and nights you’ll remember forever, that is unless you’re Olly Scott!

### **Novel blurb**

Olivia Scott, known as Olly to those closest to her, tells us a story from her first year at university in London, from her perspective 17 years later;

Olly has recently moved to the city to study, having grown up in a quiet, countryside village near Glastonbury, the city is worlds away from the life she left behind.

Quick witted and clumsy Olly enlists housemates and fellow students Zoe and Jiya to help navigate her new crazy life in London.

Whilst out one night at a bar with friends an unfortunate accident brings a mysterious man into her life making her question everything. Will Olly find out who her new beau really is before she falls for him or will her first impressions prevent her from seeing what’s actually right in front of her?

### **Novel detailed synopsis**

37-year-old Olly tells the reader a true story from 2002. She is living with friends Zoe and Jiya in a house share in London, they're all in their first year at a London university, on a normal night out at a bar Olly bashes into a man (Jesse), cutting her eyebrow on his chin. He's apologetic and tries to help but she's drunk and has him pinned as a dangerous person who hurt her on purpose and tries to get away from him. He feels terrible and doesn't want to just walk away, so she agrees to give him her number so he can check she's ok later, so she can get away faster.

Also, at the bar that night Olly witnesses a spark between best friend Zoe and married bar owner Sam, when walking home drunk Olly manages to get Zoe to confess details of an epic love affair between them, something Olly had suspected for a while but Zoe would never admit.

The next morning Olly received a text from a number she doesn't know, after a small text exchange and a short phone call her memories of last night begin to come back and she remembers the accident in the bar, she agrees reluctantly when Jesse asks to meet for a coffee, she has no intention of going but feeling rough and hungover she says she will to get him off the phone.

A few days later when Olly is studying in a café Jesse calls, asking again to meet, to just get it over and done with so he will leave her alone she tells him to meet her in the café she is already in, he turns up and she's surprised by how attractive he is, she hadn't remembered due to being so drunk when they met. They have a coffee and chat for a while but Olly spends the entire time staring at him, insanely attracted to him.

Thinking she scared him of with the staring and drooling Olly isn't surprised that she doesn't hear from Jesse again, the only problem is she can't get him out of her head, It's the Easter break at university and she decides to go home to Glastonbury for the holidays. Having to take a train home she's nervous, she hates travelling and suffers major anxiety in having to get home by herself. She manages to get a train from London to Bristol where her sister Molly is going to pick her up, but Mollie is a no show and Olly is stranded at Bristol train station, instead of calling her parents or friends for help she decides to call Jesse, who has gone home to Toronto, Canada for Christmas. Jesse manages to figure out how to get her home to Glastonbury and Olly is impressed.

At home Olly returns to her parents large Glastonbury farmhouse and is reminded of why she chose a university far away from home! Her parents are weird and annoying, her mum is the organic, vegan hippy type, making weird food and behaving in odd ways. Her Dad is barely communicative, instead opting to be alone, building model aircrafts and occasionally making a dig at Olly's life choices.

Her sister Molly turns up apologetic for not picking Olly up from the train station, she had an emergency at the hospital where she works as a nurse, Olly instantly forgives her and their relationship is as good as its always been.

They go out to get away from their annoying parents where conversation turns to Molly's boyfriend Frankie and Olly explaining about meeting Jesse.

Wrongly assuming they're dating/in a similar situation to Molly and Frankie, Molly suggests inviting Jesse to spend Christmas with their family in Glastonbury to share the burden of their over-bearing judgemental parents. Olly knows it's a bad idea but the idea of having Jesse there for Christmas is appealing.

That night Olly talks to Jesse on the phone, feeling like a teenager in her childhood bedroom, she floats the idea of coming to Glastonbury to spend Christmas with her in a jokey way, given that it's 3 days until Christmas she knows it's highly unlikely anyway, he takes it as a joke and they end up talking for hours and getting to know each other and Olly falls for him a little more.

The next day Molly and Olly (There is a joke in the book about why their names rhyme) go Christmas shopping, at the end of the day Jesse calls and asks if they're able to pick him up from Bristol airport! He's flown over for Christmas - his parents had gone away on a cruise and his brothers were spending Christmas with their wives and families, so he flew over to surprise her.

Waiting in the car at the airport an odd scene unfolds - Jesse emerges, followed by security and a crowd of people! Olly and Molly feel uneasy about the situation, regretting inviting a relative stranger into their family home for Christmas but it's too late. Jesse gets into the car, Olly is worried that he's dangerous as she first suspected.

Jesse is forced to explain the situation and tells them his real name is Jesse Hendry but his full name is Jesse Jay Summers-Hendry and that he's a famous musician, going by the stage name of 'Jay Summers' - as soon as he says the name it clicks and Molly knows who he is, Olly has heard the name but doesn't care much for current music and doesn't follow popular culture so she doesn't really know who he is or what he does, nor does she really care.

Molly drives them to her apartment and leaves them to talk it all out.

Whilst staying in Glastonbury they go out for a walk to the Tor and Olly experiences his life and fans for the first time. Her feelings for him grow as they spend time together.

They spend Christmas day together and then late that day Jesse is called back to London for work, Olly goes with him, that night they stay in London at Olly's student house, they begin to kiss and are about to get intimate when the door bursts open and Zoe walks in battered and bruised and crying.

Sam's wife had found out about the affair and beat her up. Olly comforts her and attempts to clean up the blood, after a while Sam turns up and Olly and Jesse go upstairs to let them talk.

The next day Zoe goes to stay with her sister Katy, Olly goes to the tv studio with Jesse and experiences him singing for the first time as he appears on a tv show. That night they go back to the student house. Olly and Jesse sleep together for the first time.

Later that night they're woken up by noise downstairs, Sam and Zoe are arguing. Jesse goes downstairs, followed shortly after by Olly, Jesse tries to help but ends up angering Sam and they get into a physical fight, as Jesse hits Sam Olly is crying for him to stop and eventually, scared of the violent side of him she's seen, kicks Jesse out.

Olly doesn't hear from Jesse again that night. He's angry for being kicked out on the street to fans and cameras in a foreign country with nowhere to stay and no security but Olly, being oblivious to that side of his life doesn't consider any of that.

The next day she goes back to Glastonbury, she talks to Jesse on the phone, he's mad and tells her why. Olly blurts out that she loves him, insincerely, just wanting to do anything to make it better and make him not mad. Jesse is annoyed that she blurted out something so important so casually and he hangs up the phone.

A week goes by and it's the day before New Year's Eve, Olly, Zoe and Jiya are going on a girl's trip to Falmouth for a New Year's Eve break, Olly is sad and needs a break with her friends, Zoe is having a stressful time with Sam and Jiya isn't herself. They book a lodge on the beach and head down to Falmouth.

They have a girl's night in the lodge, drinking, eating a take away dinner and have a drunken heart to heart about Jesse and Sam.

The next day they're all hungover and feeling ill, they stay in the lodge mostly sleeping off their hangovers, that evening is New Year's Eve, they get ready to go out, as Olly is getting ready Jesse calls and apologises for the phone call the day before when he was angry and hung up on her. He tries to get her to admit how she feels but Olly finds it too difficult to talk about her feelings.

Later that night Olly drunk dials Jesse outside of a bar and she's so drunk she starts to tell him she loves him again; Jesse is annoyed that she's casually throwing those words around again.

They head back to the lodge at 11.30 and see in the new year together, followed by an emotional midnight heart to heart where Zoe says she's not going to carry on the affair with Sam, she's done with it, Olly admits how much she wants it to work with Jesse and Jiya tells them her relationship with Matt is over since he didn't turn up for Christmas they were supposed to spend together and tells them she's not happy at university and she wants to leave to travel the world instead.

When Olly arrives home in Glastonbury the next day severely hungover, she sees photos online of Jesse with other girls in clubs from New Year's Eve, she's emotional and heart broken and feeling really ill. She gets in bed and sleeps for the entire day, when she wakes, she's got lots of missed calls and messages from Sam, informing her that Zoe is in hospital having taken an overdose and she needs to get to the hospital in London as soon as possible.

Olly rushes back to London and meets Sam at the hospital, Zoe is touch and go and they're worried she won't make it. Zoe's family won't come to the hospital because of her relationship with Sam, who is also 10 years older than her. Zoe pulls through and Sam and Olly take care of her when she comes home, Olly is so consumed with taking care of Zoe that she doesn't speak to Jesse for weeks. It's Easter before she has any contact with him again.

Olly needs a break from life and decides to go home to Glastonbury for the Easter holidays, she falls asleep on the train and ends up missing her stop, arriving in Cardiff instead. She can't get another train home that night so instead she has to stay in a hotel overnight.

Noticing a huge queue outside a music venue on Cardiff high street on her way to the hotel she looks to see who is performing. It's Jesse! She decides to text him, he calls her and invites her to his show, she's tired and doesn't want to go but reluctantly agrees after some persuasion. She watches him perform for the first time and finally understands the magic of him. After the show Jesse and Olly sneak out of the venue and spend the night together in Olly's hotel, rekindling their romance and talking through the past.

The next morning, they both admit their feelings and Olly tells him she loves him properly and Jesse tells her he loves her too. He asks her to be his girlfriend.

The story skips forward to June, Glastonbury festival, Jesse is performing, and Olly and Molly are going. Olly confronts some of her feelings about her traumatic childhood surrounding Glastonbury festival and Molly helps her realise that she's scared of her relationship with Jesse going somewhere and is self-sabotaging.

Listening to Molly's advice she talks to Jesse in the hot tub at her parents' house, telling him about her past and why she can't talk about her feelings.

Later that night in bed Olly is woken up by noise and voices outside, she goes out to see what it is and realises it's a bunch of Jesse's fans who have found out he's staying there.

The next day they decide it's not fair on Olly's parents to have all of Jesse's fans outside the house making noise all night, so they go back to London to stay at Olly's student house.

That night Zoe and Sam arrive home to find Olly and Jesse there, they don't seem very happy that they're there. Sam is already annoyed by the fans outside. Zoe seems annoyed too but fakes a smile and tries to be nice. Olly tells them they're heading out for dinner if they want to come with them expecting them to say no, Zoe accepts the invitation and goes to get ready.

They all meet at the restaurant, dinner goes ok at the end Jesse goes to the bathroom and Zoe goes too, instead of going to the ladies toilet Olly follows him into the men's, pushing him into a cubicle she kisses him, Jesse pushes her off and tells her to stop but she's persistent and tries again. He gets angry and

she lets him leave. Olly wonders why he's so flustered when he returns to the table, he lies and says he was bombarded by his fans.

When they all get home Zoe is already there, Sam has gone back to his place, Jesse says hello to Zoe as he walks in, she's obviously not happy and there's an awkwardness, Olly notices and is confused, she was fine and friendly at the restaurant before.

Olly and Jesse leave her and go upstairs, Jesse goes back down to get a glass of water. Where he ends up in a confrontation with Zoe about what happened earlier at the restaurant. She touches him inappropriately again, causing him to get mad and leave immediately and go back upstairs.

A few days pass, Jesse and Olly barely see Zoe, she's been staying in her bedroom and has been working a lot and Jesse and Olly have been out a lot making the most of the time together before Jesse has to go back on tour. But after a few days they arrive back at the student house to find Zoe and Sam in full argument, the place is completely trashed and smashed up! Olly is upset by the mess they're confronted with in her house, Jesse gets her to go and pack some stuff up so he can take her somewhere safe. Jesse calls the police and when they arrive he leaves them to it and takes Olly away.

Jesse takes Olly to a lavish hotel suite that he rents when he's staying in London, he asks Olly to move in with him.

The next morning Jesse has to work all day, Olly feels sorry for Zoe when she says she needs a day away from Sam and all the drama, so Olly invites her over to Jesse's hotel suite, they go shopping for the day and then Olly invites Zoe to stay over. Jesse isn't happy when they return from shopping and Zoe turns up.

The evening goes ok but once Olly has gone to bed Zoe tries to make a move on Jesse again.

Knowing he needs to tell Olly it's on Jesse's mind all night and all of the next day when they arrive home from the supermarket Jesse comes clean. Olly is in shock and doesn't know who to believe, she leaves. She doesn't know where to go, she decides to go back to her house with Zoe, thinking that she trusted Zoe and Jesse must be lying.

After subtly questioning Zoe she thinks she is lying and doesn't know what to do about the whole situation. She decides she needs to go back to Glastonbury for a while.

Jesse is about to fly to Tokyo for tour and asks to see her before he goes. She agrees for him to drive her to the train station.

He picks her up, but she forgets her phone and goes back in, Jesse asks to use the toilet in her house, whilst upstairs Olly hears parts of a conversation between Jesse and Zoe, hearing Jesse say 'Get off me' – Olly listens, hiding on the stairs and realises it's Zoe and Jesse was telling the truth. She's still heartbroken at the loss of her best friend.

She leaves the house quickly, bursting into tears outside. Jesse tells her to go back to Glastonbury and get away from the situation for a while and that they would figure it out when he got back from Tokyo. Olly agrees. Instead of driving her to the train station he surprises her by driving her all the way

back to Glastonbury. On arrival he admits the fancy white range rover he's just driven her to Glastonbury in is actually a gift for her so she can get too and from London and Glastonbury easier.

Jesse's driver picks him up and takes him to Bristol airport.

After living in a bubble with her parents in Glastonbury It's nearing the end of the summer break and Olly knows she has to go back to London soon and prepare for the next term at uni, which means having to confront Zoe and all of the drama with Zoe, Sam and Jesse.

She drives back to London, taking boxes she get home and packs up her stuff to move out.

She confronts Zoe about kissing Jesse, Zoe denies it until Sam turns up, scared that Olly is going to tell Sam she starts to co-operate, admitting to a much more watered-down version of events. Olly just packs the rest of her stuff and leaves.

Olly goes back to Jesse's hotel suite; he is still away in Tokyo. For 6 days she stays in, sad, crying in her pyjamas, eating take aways, watching sad movies and feeling sorry for herself until the 6<sup>th</sup> day when she pulls herself together, deciding that she can't live with Jesse, she needs some stability and a place of her own so this situation can never take away her home again. She goes to the estate agent and starts looking for apartments.

Jesse surprises her by arriving home early. After a talk and on the advice of her sister Olly changes her mind and decides she should give her relationship with Jesse a shot and takes him up on his offer to move into somewhere new together.

The story ends back with Zoe, age 37, just as the story began, where she tells you what her life is like now and how things turned out. She tells us that Sam and Zoe didn't last, Zoe ended up having an affair with a married professor at the university and they were never friends again. Olly says that despite things being hard she and Jesse stayed together and got married, Olly moved out of London back to the southwest, taking a job offer at Falmouth university in Cornwall, Jesse moved over from Toronto permanently and they made a life together in Cornwall, they had two daughters Remi and Hero. Jesse still sang and toured but made time for his family and had taken up surfing. Olly tells us she's happy and watching her family be happy is all she ever needed.

### **Pilot script episode:**

Pilot episode is narrated by Olly the heroine, as she tells a story from her first year at a London university from her 37-year-old present day perspective. Olly narrates all the way through as if the story is happening now before us, much of the episode is her thoughts/narration of the situation. The pilot sets the scene and introduces the main characters, it covers from the start of the novel where Olly and Jesse meet with an accident in a bar, when Olly drunkenly bashes into Jesse cutting her eyebrow on his chin which starts their story. The relationship between Zoe and Sam is first seen and their

backstory is explained, it includes the second time Jesse and Olly meet for a coffee and start to get to know each other. We begin to see Olly's thoughts of Jesse increasing as her curiosity for him kicks in. It's the Christmas holidays and she travels home to Glastonbury for Christmas with her family, her sister is supposed to pick her up from the train station but doesn't show, she calls Jesse for help who has gone back to his home in Toronto for Christmas, after he helps her the episode ends with her arriving at the driveway of her parents family farmhouse in Glastonbury.